

AMENDMENT OF THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A method for screen printing by means of a reusable screen printing form wherein ink is transferred in the form of information in a printing operation to an object to be printed, comprising the steps:

before the printing operation a reversible imaging process is performed in which a screen printing raw form having a certain number of screen openings of predetermined mesh width is provided uniformly and completely with a lacquer or a thermoplastic material so that all screen openings are closed; and

subsequently reopening selected screen openings which are to be ink-permeable in the printing operation.

Claim 2 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 1, wherein the screen openings are closed with a UV-curable lacquer.

Claim 3 (Original): The method according to claim 1, wherein the screen openings are opened by an action selected from the group consisting of light, heat, air, gas or liquid jet, and spark erosion.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 1, wherein the lacquer or the thermoplastic material is cured or dried before reopening.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): Apparatus for carrying out the method according to claim 1, comprising:

a screen printing form;

a coating device in which a screen printing raw form having a selected number of screen openings of desired mesh width is provided completely with a lacquer or a ~~layer of~~ thermoplastic material; and

a device arranged to enable opening of individual screen openings of the coated screen printing raw form.

Claim 6 (Original): Apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the device enabling the screen openings has at least a laser and/or nozzle for supplying air, gas or a liquid.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): Apparatus according to claim 5, including a curing or drying device in which the lacquer or the thermoplastic material applied to the coating device is cured or dried.

Claim 8 (Original): Apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the curing device has at least one UV radiator.

Claim 9 (Original): Apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the drying device has at least one IR radiator.